

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM  
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 7, 2004

The Honorable Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Mayor Kim:

I am writing you on behalf of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council. Our Council is appointed by officials of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is advisory to the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Our work is to provide advice to NOAA on how best to manage the marine environment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Many of our discussions as an advisory council have turned on the subject of education and in the case of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands how best to "bring the place to the people, not the people to the place." We were pleased when Hilo was chosen as the site for the first interpretive facility for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands—a facility now known as "Mokupapapa Discovery Center for Hawai'i's Remote Coral Reefs."

It is our understanding that you have always been a strong supporter of the Discovery Center in Hilo, and the purpose of this letter is to thank you for that support. By the end of 2003 the Discovery Center hosted about 20,000 visitors since its opening in late May. We hope for your continuing support of the Discovery Center as NOAA continues to provide outstanding cultural, historical, and natural history educational opportunities from this new interpretive facility in Hilo.

My best to you and your family during 2004.

Sincerely,



Timothy E. Johns  
Chairperson, Northwestern Hawaiian  
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council

cc: Robert Smith  
Moani Pai